Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for determining if an item is a fraudulent item, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining by radio means a first number from an RFID tag associated with the item or item's packaging;

electronically reading a second number printed on the item or packaging of the item;

utilizing a public-key cryptographic process and contents of the RFID tag to cryptographically decide whether the second number is a public-key signature of the first number; and

determining authenticity of the item based on the result of the decision.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the item's authenticity comprises associating the item with an authentic item if the signature is verified, otherwise associating the item with a forged item.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a product in order to prevent forgery, the method comprising the steps of:

programming an anti-forgery RFID tag, pre-programmed with an unalterable first number, with a second number, the unalterable first number probabilistically rarely the same number as unalterable first numbers in other anti-forgery RFID tags;

determining a third number that is a cryptographic signature over the first and second numbers;

affixing the anti-forgery RFID tag comprising the first and second numbers to either the product or packaging associated with the product; and

affixing the third number to either the product or the packaging associated with the product.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of affixing the third number to either the product or the packaging associated with the product comprises the step of printing the third number on the product or the product's packaging.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method comprising the steps of:

obtaining an RFID tag comprising a first number;

utilizing a private key and the first number to create a second number that is a cryptographic signature, such that cryptographic verification of the second number insures authenticity of an item; and

affixing the second number and the RFID tag to the item or packaging.

12-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein a bar code is used for rendering the second number that is printed on the item or item's packaging.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein a bar code is used for rendering the second number that is affixed on the item or item's packaging.

21. (Previously Presented) A method for determining if an item is a fraudulent item, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining by radio means a first and second number from an RFID tag, wherein the first number is unalterable and unique or semi-unique and the second number is associated with the item;

electronically reading a third number;

utilizing a public-key cryptographic process and the first and second numbers to cryptographically decide whether the third number is a public-key signature of a combination of the first and second numbers; and

determining authenticity of the item based on the result of the decision.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of electronically determining whether the RFID tag is an anti-forgery RFID tag.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising electronically determining whether a specific physical feature or a behavioral feature of the RFID tag matches that of an anti-forgery RFID tag.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of verifying that the second number is associated with the item.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the verification is performed electronically using an optical scanner.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of electronically determining whether the second number is an Electronic Product Code (EPC) of the item.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the reading is performed by a bar code scanner.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the second number is associated with the product.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the first number contains a third and fourth number ~~is obtained from the RFID tag when the first number is obtained~~,

the third number is concatenated with, ~~but a separate number~~ and contains different information than, the ~~first~~ fourth number,

the third number includes product information of the item,

the public-key cryptographic process is used with the ~~first and~~ third and fourth numbers, and

only if the public-key cryptographic process cryptographically decides that the second number is a public-key signature of the ~~first and~~ third and fourth numbers is the product determined to be authentic.

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein the ~~first~~ fourth number does not contain product information of the item.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the first number does not contain product information of the item and the second number contains product information of the item.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the first number does not contain product information of the item.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the first number does not contain product information of the item.